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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 85, 751

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, being a member of the committee and hearing the testimony that came forth, we had an advantage over Senator Bromm and other members on the floor. But as Senator...by the way, the bill was LB 751, if you want to look in your bill book and see who spoke for the bill during the committee hearing...at the committee hearing, and the committee statement, you can see those things. Senator Bromm, there have been videos made by the operators of these private prisons showing the kind of brutality, mistreatment of inmates which have turned out to be used against these operations and outfits themselves. There have been breakouts, corners have been cut in construction, people have been hired off the street. They want to make as much money as they can as income with as little expenditure as outgo as possible. When you're dealing with the care and treatment of human beings, there have to be considerations that take priority over the profit motive, even when the individuals are those convicted of crimes, convicted by fair means or foul, as we are learning. It is essential that we enact legislation of this kind, in my opinion. The people who want these prisons will usually descend on a small community, bedazzle the members of the city council, tell them all the wonderful things that prisons are going to bring to their community. They will usually find a depressed area, economically depressed that is, and come to them. And they can paint a glowing picture. It's not going to cost you anything; it's going to be well run; there will be jobs for the people in your community; there will be purchases made by the prison and by prisoners from your community. They don't talk about the jailbreaks. They don't talk about the ones in local, county and state law enforcement who are going to have to run people down. They do not talk about the kind of people who wind up in these prisons. If you were operating a federal prison and you got some bad actors and you don't have a lot of space because you're arresting a lot of drug...people convicted of nonviolent drug offenses, which kind of people will you keep in your prison and dump these states that open the borders? You will keep the nonviolent people, because they're easier to manage. and you will send all of these others that nobody wants to have to contend with. It is expensive to maintain maximum security facilities. How does the